



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of New Hampshire*

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MEDIA RELEASE

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“OPERATION BEANTOWN”

**8th MEMBER OF MANCHESTER CRACK RING SENTENCED ON FEDERAL
CRACK COCAINE DISTRIBUTION CHARGES**

Re: United States v. Raheem “Ruckus” RICE

Concord, New Hampshire -- United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, N.H. State Police Colonel Gary Sloper, and Manchester Police Chief John Jaskolka announced that **Raheem “Ruckus” RICE**, date of birth of April 15, 1978, of Manchester, NH was sentenced on July 16, 2003 on crack cocaine distribution charges.

At today’s sentencing, U.S. District Judge Joseph DeClerico, Jr. imposed a sentence of 90 months (7 ½ years) imprisonment followed by a three-year period of supervised release during which RICE’s behavior will be monitored by the U.S. Department of Probation.

On April 11, 2003, RICE entered a guilty plea to an information alleging that he distributed cocaine base, also known as “crack cocaine,” in Manchester on August 15, 2002.

RICE was arrested by Manchester and New Hampshire State Police officers on October 15, 2002, along with ten others, as part of their joint “Operation Beantown” investigation, so named because of its focus on alleged Boston-based drug traffickers that had relocated to Manchester. Seven others have been sentenced in connection with the investigation, including:

- Michael “Mook” Martin (65 months);
- Antwone “Sticks” Cousins (56 months);
- Taranne “Black” Tillis (46 months);
- Roderick “Shawn” Echols (46 months);
- Maria Miranda (37 months);
- Tarrell Burris (30 months);
- Justin “Styles” Foote (12 months).

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated, “This case demonstrates our office’s commitment to aggressively prosecuting drug traffickers, including the street-level crack dealers operating in Manchester and New Hampshire’s other larger cities. Operation Beantown is a prime example of the effectiveness of cooperative efforts between federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in combating the disastrous impact of crack cocaine on our urban neighborhoods and their residents. This office will continue to commit federal resources to these efforts.”

The conviction resulted from a joint investigation conducted by the Manchester Police Department’s Special Investigations Unit and the N.H. State Police Narcotics Investigation Unit.

The prosecution was handled by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph N. Laplante, the Lead Attorney for the District of New Hampshire in the New England Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (“New England OCDEF”).